

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus₁ comprising:
a menu storage unit storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications; and
a menu development unit discriminating whether one of the applications~~an application~~ ~~which is now started~~ and displaying ~~developing~~ a menu corresponding to the started application on a screen using said menu information.
2. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a menu execution unit executing a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.
3. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the application for which said menu information exists is started, the application is activated.
4. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said menu development unit displays~~develops~~ a predetermined menu on the screen if an application which does not store said menu information is started or no application is started.
5. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.
6. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if a menu item is selected~~determined~~ from said menu, the menu is deleted from the screen.

7. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises an indication unit indicating display development of said menu, and said menu development unit discriminates the started application if an indication of said indication unit is detected.

8. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said indication unit is a device consisting of a scroll-up~~scroll-up~~ button and a scroll-down~~scroll-down~~ button for changing selection of the menu item from said menu and a defined button for determining the selected menu item.

9. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said defined button is operated to thereby indicate the display development of said menu.

10. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said defined button is arranged between said scroll-up~~scroll-up~~ button and said scroll-down~~scroll-down~~ button.

11. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said scroll-up~~scroll-up~~ button and said scroll-down~~scroll-down~~ button are a seesaw switch provided with a pair of switch contacts operating by depressing one of operation regions on both ends of a switch knob, and said defined button is a push button switch arranged in a hole formed at a center of said switch knob.

12. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said indication unit is provided in front of a keyboard.

13. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the information processing apparatus ~~consists of~~comprises:

a cover on which a display is arranged;
a main body on which said keyboard is arranged; and
a coupling section coupling the cover to the main body.

14. (currently amended) A menu processing method for ~~displaying~~developing a menu on a screen, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

discriminating ~~an application whether one of the applications which is now started~~; and
~~displaying~~developing a menu corresponding to the started application based on a ~~discriminating discrimination~~ result while using characteristic menu information characteristic menu information corresponding to ~~the application~~ applications.

15. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14, comprising ~~the step of~~ executing a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.

16. (original) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein if the application for which said menu information exists is started, the application is activated.

17. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein a predetermined menu is ~~displayed~~developed on the screen if an application, for which said menu information exists, is started or no application is started.

18. (original) A menu processing method according to claim 17, wherein said predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.

19. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein if a menu item is selected~~determined~~ from said menu, the menu is deleted from the screen.

20. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14,

comprising ~~the step of indicating development~~ display of said menu, and the started application is discriminated if an indication is detected.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium recording a menu processing program, the menu processing program allowing a computer to execute the ~~steps~~ operations of:

~~discriminating an application which whether one of the applications is new~~ started; and
~~developing~~ displaying a menu corresponding to the started application based on a ~~discrimination~~ discriminating result while using said menu information characteristic menu information corresponding to ~~the application~~ applications.

22. (original) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said menu processing program conducts a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.

23. (original) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if the application for which said menu information exists is started, said menu processing program activates the application.

24. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if an application, for which said menu information exists, is started or no application is started, said menu processing program ~~displays~~ develops a predetermined menu on the screen.

25. (original) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 24, wherein said predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.

26. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if a menu item is selected ~~determined~~ from said menu, said menu processing program deletes the menu from the screen.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein an indication of ~~display~~development of said menu is detected, and the started application is discriminated if said indication is detected.

28. (new) A menu processing method, comprising:
storing menu characteristic information corresponding to applications;
determining whether an activated control activates one of the applications; and
displaying a menu for the application if the application corresponding to the control exists
where the menu is displayed responsive to the menu characteristic information corresponding to the application.